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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/605,818	06/28/2000	Jay S. Walker	00-001	5370

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EXAMINER

FADOK, MARK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/605,818

Applicant(s)

WALKER ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Fadok

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The examiner is in receipt of applicant's amendment to claims 1,12,21,33,34, 35,37,38,43,45,47,48,49,50,51,56,58,60,61,62,64,69,71,73,74, and 75. The amendment has produced in these distinct claims a new feature that must be found within the aspects of the defined invention. Therefore, it has become necessary and appropriate to restrict the application at this time.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-11,38-42, drawn to a method and processor executable steps for arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining to accept an offer based on received information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.
- II. Claim 12-20,43 and 44 drawn to a method and processor executable steps for arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an offer based on received information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.
- III. Claims 21-32,45 and 46 drawn to a method for arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed, classified in class 705, subclass 26.
- IV. Claim 33 and 47 drawn to a method and processor executable steps for conducting a sales transaction by receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

V. Claim 34 and 48 drawn to a for a method and processor executable steps for redeeming a product including transmitting redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer, the redemption information relating to a redemption of the product, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

VI. Claim 35,36,49 and 50 drawn to a method for sales transaction including transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to a second customer, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

VII. Claim 37, drawn to a system for sales transaction including transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to a second customer, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

VIII. Claims 51-55, drawn to an apparatus with means for deciding to accept an offer, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

IX. Claim 56 and 57, drawn to an apparatus for arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an offer based on received information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

X. Claims 58 and 59, drawn to an apparatus for arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XI. Claim 60, drawn to an apparatus for conducting a sales transaction by receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XII. Claim 61, drawn to an apparatus with means for delivering redemption information to a third party, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XIII. Claims 62 and 63, drawn to an apparatus for deciding to accept the offer based on obtained information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XVI. Claims 64-68, drawn to a device for determining to accept an offer based on received information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XV. Claims 69 and 70, drawn to a device for determining an offer based on received information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XVI. Claims 71 and 72, drawn to a device determine based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third party, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XVII. Claim 73, drawn to a device for receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XVIII. Claim 74, drawn to a device for transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

XIX. Claim 75 and 76 drawn to a device for transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer, classified in class 705, subclass 26.

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are

shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention V has separate utility such as transmitting redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer, the redemption information relating to a redemption of the product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and VI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VI has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to a second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and VII-XIX are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process in claim 1 can be done by hand and further invention I does not require all the functionality of the apparatus.

Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second

agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention V has separate utility such as transmitting redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer, the redemption information relating to a redemption of the product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and VI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VI has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to a second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and VII-XIX are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process in claim 1 can be done by hand and further invention I does not require all the functionality of the apparatus.



Inventions IV and V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention V has separate utility such as transmitting redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer, the redemption information relating to a redemption of the product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IV and VI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VI has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to a second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IV and VII-XIX are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process in claim 1 can be done by hand and further invention I does not require all the functionality of the apparatus.

Inventions V and VI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VI has separate utility

such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to a second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions V and VII-XIX are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process in claim 1 can be done by hand and further invention I does not require all the functionality of the apparatus.

Inventions VI and VII-XIX are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process in claim 1 can be done by hand and further invention I does not require all the functionality of the apparatus.

Inventions VII and VIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention VII has separate utility such as transmitting redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer, the redemption information relating to redemption of the product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and IX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IX has separate utility such as arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and X are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention X has separate utility such as arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XI has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XII has separate

utility such as means for delivering redemption information to a third party. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIII has separate utility such as deciding to accept the offer based on obtained information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XIV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIV has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate

utility such as determine based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VII and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and IX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IX has separate

utility such as arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and X are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention X has separate utility such as arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XI has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XII has separate utility such as means for delivering redemption information to a third party. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if

they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIII has separate utility such as deciding to accept the offer based on obtained information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XIV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIV has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a

second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions VIII and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and X are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention X has separate utility such as arranging for a customer to redeem a product and determining an assigned third party at which an agreement product may be redeemed. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XI has separate



utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XII has separate utility such as means for delivering redemption information to a third party. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIII has separate utility such as deciding to accept the offer based on obtained information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XIV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIV has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate

utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions IX and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate

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utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XI has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XII has separate utility such as means for delivering redemption information to a third party. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIII has separate utility such as deciding to accept the offer based on obtained information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XIV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if

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they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIV has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has

separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions X and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIII has separate utility such as deciding to accept the offer based on obtained information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XIV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIV has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XII and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XIV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIV has separate utility such as determining to accept an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIV and XV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XV has separate utility such as determining an offer based on received information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIV and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIV and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if



they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIV and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIV and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XV and XVI are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVI has separate utility such as determining based on the received information, an assigned third party to target market share associated with the third part. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XV and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has

separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XV and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XV and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XVI and XVII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVII has separate utility such as receiving authorization from the entity to provide a product to a second agreement, the authorization based on the transmitted information. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XVI and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has

separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XVI and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XVII and XVIII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XVIII has separate utility such as transmission redemption information to a third party for use in determining to accept a received offer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XVII and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions XIII and XIX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention XIX has separate

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utility such as transmitting an acceptance of the offer and an indication of the assigned retailer to the second customer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Please be advised that based on the selected group there may be a further restriction on species.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mark Fadok** whose telephone number is **(703) 605-4252**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wynn Coggins** can be reached on **(703) 308-1344**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-1113**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

***Commissioner for Patents***

***P.O. Box 1450***

**Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450**

or faxed to:

**(703) 872-9306** [Official communications; including

After Final communications labeled

"Box AF"]

(703) 746-7206 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal  
Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Fadok', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Fadok

Patent Examiner